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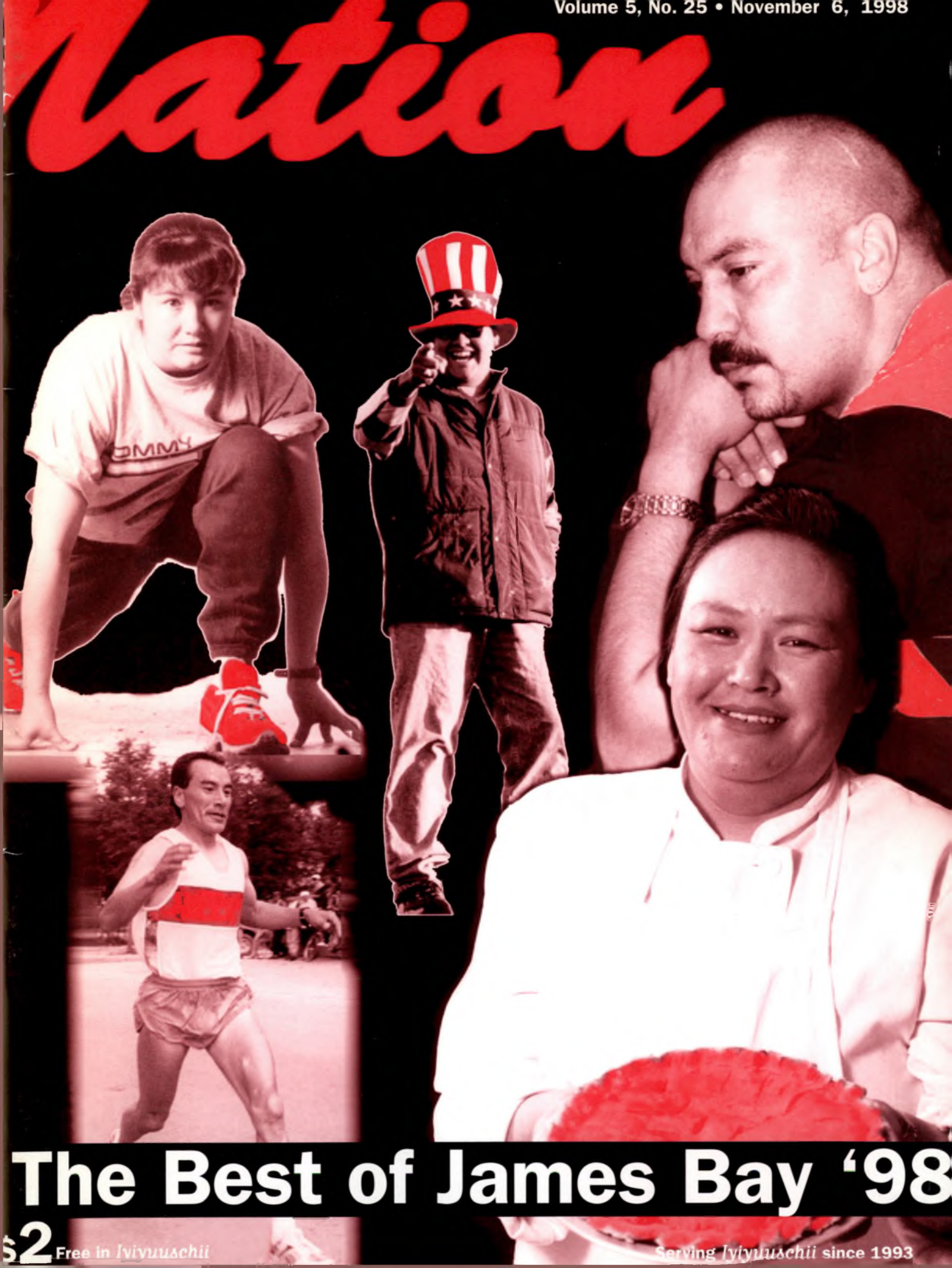
Nation



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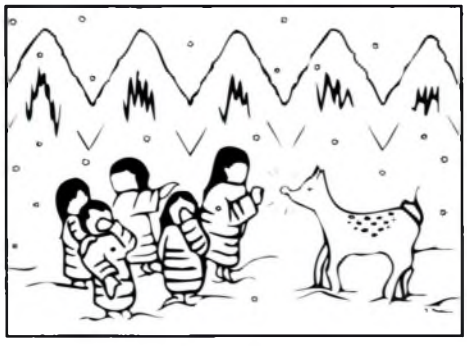

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ideas

I came across this great quote and concept recently that I have to share with you.

"If you have a penny and I have a penny and we exchange pennies, you still have one cent and I still have one cent. But if you have an idea and I have an idea and we exchange ideas, you now have two ideas and I now have two ideas."

It's such a simple idea but what a great one. If in the course of exchanging ideas you get even one good idea that benefits you then it would make the exchange worthwhile. That one idea that'll help you on your path to success whether it be personal, community, business or otherwise.

I heard of a story of a man, who while attending a conference found he was interested in two workshops happening at the same time. He went and spent a half-hour in each one. His philosophy was if he could get one good idea from each workshop then he made back his investment. Now that's a different way of looking at things. Some people might have probably found him to be rude by doing so but he fulfilled his purpose in attending the conference. He got at least two good ideas that would help him in some way.

Basically in today's world you have to open yourself not only to new, good and/or different ideas but to share them with others. This is a simple idea for making a successful strategy in whatever you want to do.

Networking with others can improve your chances. Networking is when you usually have a pre-arranged meeting with others, a preparation or theme of ideas to be discussed. Networking always has some positive results; a connection is made with others and both sides can benefit by working together, or names are dropped as potential partners. Good ideas are supported and bad ideas dropped.

One example of this in the Cree communities is Chief Louise Wapachee's idea of bringing all of Ouje-Bougoumou together to look at the future of their community. I believe Wapachee said they have built their community and now it was time to build the people.

I don't think Ouje-Bougoumou will be doing a complete make-over of the community because they won't be throwing out the best. The things that made them successful in the past will be kept and you may see some old ideas spruced up in creative efforts and enthusiasm that'll result in a new achievement for the community.

In any case it will bring together a large number of people with ideas and it should be interesting to see what results. I wish Chief Wapachee and her community the best of success in their endeavours to improve the quality of life for everyone in Ouje-Bougoumou. It just might be a good idea for the other Cree communities to check out the results. After all, it is a lot more profitable than exchanging a few pennies here and there.

by William Nicholls

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Photos: Neil Diamond
Design: Sylvia Tennisco

rez notes
by Ndiamon

Hallowe'en started out, like many holidays and festivals, as a pagan get-together where it was not unusual for the ancients to sacrifice animals and nubile young virgins to the gods, hold massive orgies and party like it was 999.

All Hallow's Eve is a few notches above even Christmas as a favourite "religious" holiday of mine. I can be anybody or anything I want and I don't have to give away gifts.

There is no official word for Hallowe'en in Cree. Some call it "Dressup Time." Some of the more imaginative call it "When Ghosts Walk," "When Monsters Walk" or "Monster Day."

Hallowe'en is much loved in Cree land. People spend weeks preparing in secret for the big night. Most people dig through their boxes of old clothing, throw on a store-bought mask, and assemble costumes and personae from scratch at the last minute. Usually young people will borrow their grandparents' clothes for the night and go out as... well... old people. It is not unusual for a masked youngster to walk into the community Hallowe'en dance hall holding a bottle wearing their parents' hand-me-downs. The parents will also get into it and come out dressed as babies with baggy diapers and maybe sucking on a soother.

In fact some Crees love the whole ritual so much they'll dress up when it's not Hallowe'en. One young gentleman received his life-long alias from one such night. He donned a long black jacket, black hip waders and crowned himself with a tire tube and scared the heck out of couples walking along the boardwalk. He's been trying to live down his nickname ever since.

The dancing and games go on till the early hours. Spectators vote for the scariest, funniest, most original or the sexiest costume. It's a great forum for the Cree introvert to act up and show his truer self without fear of being laughed at and ridiculed. There is always someone, usually a guy, dressed up like some loose and carefree woman swiveling and swaying her hips to the music.

This night is also a time when some get their aggressions out. My cousin reminded me of past Hallowe'ens when gangs of young men would run around Waskaganish toppling over people's outhouses. She didn't say whether anyone was ever in the middle of Nature's call when the outhouses fell.

In another community, a friend of a friend once tried to egg a school official's residence. They hurled the first egg but it ended up cracking the window. So they ran away. With the egg still intact.

At the end of the night the participants are unmasked and the crowd reacts when someone they never expected to be dressed up is revealed on stage.

In more civilized southern communities kids have been known to leave surprises on people's doorsteps. Early in the evening they would fill their bellies with pickles, milk, and other still-secret ingredients and wait. When the time came they would defecate in a paper bag, leave it on doorsteps and then, set it afire.

Another favourite was lathering up windows or painting someone's car with children's paint. It's easier to wash off.

Okay, that's enough. I have to go pick up my Elvis costume and sideburns. Happy trick or treating.

E-mail me at **ndiamon@hotmail.com** or **rez@beesum-communications.com**.

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Nation

FEDS COULD FREEZE BAND FUNDS: OFFICIAL

The federal government could withhold money from the Waskaganish band or freeze its funds because the band diverted money intended for housing renovations into covering its out-of-control deficit.

The band got $1 million from the federal government in a 1997 deal on the express condition it goes to housing renovations. But $450,000 was put toward the band's run-away debt.

The band's total debt isn't known, but it is $6.3 million in the hole just in its "special projects fund" (see sidebar).

Malcolm Moses, band treasurer, reportedly argued that if nothing was done about the run-away debt, Indian Affairs could step in and put the band under trusteeship.

But the diversion of the funds isn't likely to make Indian Affairs any happier. Officials said bands must respect their side of the deal if funds were meant to go to housing. Otherwise, the federal government could take action, according to Bruce Labrador, a housing analyst at Indian Affairs.

"What I do in general, if we have confirmation funds were redirected to something else, is we would have to intervene and freeze the money in question," said Labrador. "We would be withholding funds for subsequent years."

How serious was (or is) the risk of trusteeship? Some wonder if Moses' statement wasn't perhaps just a scare tactic for taking the housing money because of pressure from the band's auditors.

Moses was on leave and unavailable for explanations. His replacement, Kathy Black, refused to comment. Chief Billy Diamond didn't return phone calls.

Residents of 69 old homes in Waskaganish have patiently awaited the renovations for many years.

The cedar and white-siding homes, occupied mostly by Elders and young families, are up to 25 years old and badly in need of repairs.

They have damp and moldy basements with a thin concrete floor and plywood walls. Water leaks in the spring-time. The mold sometimes smells up the whole house, and this is causing health problems for some residents. The houses are also drafty. Some have rotting walls.

But the band's debt has soared so high, growing by over $1 million in just the last year, the renovations got sacrificed.

The community was never consulted about the move and only found out later what happened. Many residents were dismayed.

"That's not right. It's more important to renovate those houses," said a man who's lived in one of the white-siding houses for 19 years. "To me, it's time to be repaired now. It's really bad now. In some of the houses you can smell the mold. It's not good for young kids."

The diversion of the funds seems like a snub to the Cree Regional Authority, which secured the money in August 1997 after years of difficult negotiations with Ottawa.

At the time, the CRA sent a letter to the bands saying: "It is important that all communities keep a clear and separate accounting of these amounts in your financial statements... Funds cannot be reallocated to another purpose but rather, must be used for the specific purpose provided."

by Alex Roslin

WASKAGANISH DEBT TOPS $6.3M

The Waskaganish band is over $6.3 million in the red, or $3,680 for each man, woman and child in the community. The debt exists because of high spending on "special projects." Here's where some of the money went:

- the gravel pit ($1.14 million in debt)
- inactive past projects ($1.16 million)
- police ($582,000)
- community wellness program ($644,000)
- aircraft ($281,000)
- tourism marketing ($584,000)
- the lagoon ($633,000)
- economic development-administration ($107,000)
- gate-alcohol control ($191,000)

The band's finances are in such a bad state it took $450,000 out of housing renovations and put it toward its debt: in particular, a huge cost overrun on the construction of two quadruplexes.

The band got the $450,000 from the federal government on the condition that it go to housing renovations. In this deal, signed in 1997, the nine Cree communities got $8.5 million in federal funds for housing. Waskaganish's share was just over $1 million, of which the band now has only $613,000 left.

Of that, $175,000 is slated to go toward the creation of something known as the Waskaganish Housing Authority. Just what is this? Few people seem to know. Residents are asking themselves why the entity is being created when the band already has a housing department.

"Spending $175,000 is ridiculous, to say the least," said one. "Where's all the money going? It only needs to be incorporated. That costs $500. Who are we paying?"

Another resident said, "We have to discuss the deficit of the band. I'd say it's a very big problem." Yet another went so far as to say the chief should resign because of the debt. "He's the guy at the top, but he doesn't want to accept responsibility."

There is still some money left: $438,000. This has been set aside for unspecified projects "in future years."

BY ALEX ROSLIN

The sole owners of the land

Letter to *The Nation*:

Dear Chief Coon Come,

I am just reminding you through this letter about some of the responsibilities that you have towards us, your people, the Cree. I was just watching TV at lunch hour when the thought hit me that we are not benefiting from some of the things that people down south take for granted, that is low telephone rates. It may seem that there are more important things on your agenda, or things more pressing than telephone services, but I don't think that you should forget about us little guys who are still living in the North. We are the majority over here, and we get the s—iest (mind the language) services imaginable in all of Quebec. We get the worst and the most expensive cable service if it is available at all. We get the worst telephone service. We even have to pay with our meager incomes for hydro, even though it is at our back yard. It seems that we have to pay back everything that we sacrificed for. We are not getting wealthier; we are getting poorer in monetary, social, cultural and traditional terms.

Also, I am getting more discouraged and disturbed with the attitude of some of the majority in Quebec. They must think they own everything in Quebec. They don't even want people who speak languages other than theirs to be living in Quebec (Eaton language signs demonstration in Montreal, English go home, hit 401, Sept. 1998). I feel insulted when I see Quebecers giving the finger to other Quebecers, because I am one of them. I am not French, and do not speak the language, maybe un peut, tres petit peut.

This is not actually Quebec where we live, it is Eeyou Istchee, Cree Land in English, Anglais. It was annexed by the Kings, or whoever they were, without the permission or consent of the Aboriginal people. So it is actually Eeyou Istchee, not Quebec, Canada, or Rupert's Land. It is Eeyou Istchee, plan and simple. Modern treaties may say otherwise, but who cares if they didn't bother to get our consent originally. People might not believe or want to believe that we contributed to the development of this land, but we did. Without the help of the Cree people, the first European explorers and traders in James Bay would not have survived. It is through our ancestors that we are here today. They were the ones who made the sacrifices. We want to be a part of the development of our land, and want benefits that are rightfully ours. Let me explain a little bit. On the issue of the Eastmain 1 project, are we supposed to be partners in everything including investments? (*The Nation*, Vol. 4, No. 22, Sept. 22, 1998)? I think we have invested enough into the coffers of the Quebec government, through our Cree Land, that is being pillaged at this moment (mining, forestry, hydro) without our participation or benefit (pennies when you look at the money that is made). The White Man has been taking from Eeyou Istchee since his arrival, without fair compensation to us, and/or other Native Nations in the province, or in Canada for that matter.

It may seem out of reach for us to be the sole owners of our country, meaning Eeyou

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Ouje-Bougoumou to be finally recognized?

It was the first time in the Cree-Naskapi Commission's history that it would be appearing before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development.

At the end of the meeting, Member of Parliament Joe Finaly said he would be willing to draft and present legistlation to be brought before Parliament to recognize Ouje-Bougoumou as a band. Guy St. Pierre, chairman of the standing committee and Liberal MP for the Ungava region, said, "Do it Mr. Finaly, I'll support you."

The Cree-Naskapi Commission's latest report pointed out that the recognition of the Ouje-Bougou-mou people as a band with allocated lands has been ignored year after year.

Finaly said legistlation could be drawn up in a week. Richard Saunders, head of the commission, recommended Ouje-Bougoumou be contacted to assist him.

Finaly said he has heard these complaints like those that fill the commission's report time and time again from First Nations across the land. "It's like we keep the mill grinding over and over," he said.

Philip Awashish, another Cree-Naskapi Commission member, echoed Saunders saying previous reports on the lack of funding for the Cree-Naskapi Commission haven't been acted upon in "any meaningful or positive way."

Asked Awashish, "If we are an advisory body why isn't any advice acted upon?"

Robert Kanatewat agreed, saying, "What we gather falls on deaf ears."

MP Guy St. Pierre, committee chairman, was concerned with the high rates of diabetes and health in the Cree communities, as well the lack of housing. Awashish agreed, saying the severe shortage has forced Crees to spend their own money because of living conditions. St. Pierre invited the Cree-Naskapi Commission to call on the standing committee more often.

Another issue that sparked interest was that of the off-shores islands claimed by the Crees. The islands are being transferred to Nunavut, the new territory.

Kanatewat told the MPs one of the islands being included in Nunavut was the home of a Waskaganish trapline. He felt the return of the islands into Cree hands shouldn't be a problem. "Inuit won't mind."

A Bloc Québécois MP was interested in the Cree situation, saying Quebec feels a few of the islands being handed out were closer to Quebec territory than Nunavut's.

Saunders said the Cree islands are traditional territory even it they weren't covered under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

For a while, the commission hit a snag when being questioned about why it lacks documented proof concerning problems with funding of the Cree bands. One MP wanted to know why the commission had never audited a Cree community. "How do we know if the money is being spent in the right way?" he asked.

Saunders said the lack of sufficient funding and resources for the commission makes this type of verification impossible.

The MP replied, "(If) you can't prove anything, this may be why your recommendations aren't being acted upon." He then asked if Saunders felt an audit of the Cree bands would be a good way to prove the claims presented to the MPs. Saunders said, yes.

by William Nicholls

Correction

Due to incorrect information in a police statement, the wrong name was given for one of the young people who lost their lives in the tragic highway accident near Lebel-sur-Quévillon. The correct name is Fred Shem. We apologize for the mistake.

Trappers' program shot down

Trappers were reacting with concern to news that the Board of Compensation has rejected a request to fund a trappers' support program.

The program was already approved by the Council/Board of the Cree leadership.

It was intended to help trappers affected by forestry, who are under pressure to sign vague compensation deals with forestry companies offering small sums of money.

Many believe the deals pose a risk to Cree rights and efforts to save Cree traplines from devastation.

The program was originally supposed to provide $560,000 to trappers each year, with a maximum of $10,000 per trapline. This was scaled back to $480,000, but even that didn't save the program.

The Board of Compensation, which manages $157 million in Cree assets, said it didn't have enough money available, according to reports.

The idea has had a lot of support in the communities for several years. Resolutions of support have been passed by the Band Councils of Mistissini and Nemaska, and at the Cree Special General Assembly on resource development in O.J. in 1996.

Board chairman Rod Pachano didn't return calls. His wife, Board financial analyst Janie Pachano, reacted warily when asked about the program, saying, "I'm nervous now that you're talking to me." She refused to explain the Board's decision. "I can't make any comments to anybody. I'm just an employee here."

A CRA official said the trappers' support program wasn't killed because chiefs decided to suspend action on the $600-million-plus Cree forestry lawsuit, launched this summer. "It has nothing to do with the court case," he said, adding, "The idea is still there. It's still alive."

One trapper was disappointed the

continued on page 9

MEMO

MEMO

To: all students and teachers

From: The Cree School Board/The Nation

Subject: The 5th Annual Student Essay Contest

This memo is to remind you to start writing your essays. Your deadline is December 7, 1998. Topics include: personal experiences, sports, social and political issues, elders, community member profile, legends, Cree future, Cree culture and values, changes in the community, education, learning in the bush, Cree in the work place and Cree as a language of instruction.

You must be in a CSB program. Age is no factor. You may enter your essay in Cree, English or French.

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It's a Black and white issue

by Conrad Black & Co.
***The National Post* (Vol. 1, No. 1)**
The National Post Company
Don Mills, Ontario

There's been a lot of talk about Canada's new "truly national newspaper," brought to us by Conrad Black and friends.

Was the newspaper going to be full of nutty right-wing propaganda? And what was it going to be called?

Some suggested *The Daily Tubby*. According to reliable reports, Mr Black was interested in the name *The Nation*. Alas, it was already taken. There ain't room for three of us, pal.

Then one day, I'm in the grocery store and there it was. The first issue of *The National Post*. A well-dressed man in Mel's Diner downstairs was very impressed I had a copy since they had been snatched up so quickly. He was almost drooling all over my prized collector's edition, so I graciously offered it to him for 10 bucks. He declined.

On the front cover: U.S. astronaut John Glenn giving the thumbs up, while a headline reads, "At 77, Glenn shows the white stuff." Ha. Funny. I looked back at John Glenn's face (how white it now seemed) and an image of him in KKK robes came to my mind for some reason. Right beside this, another headline caught my eye: "ANC accused of torture, rights violations." White good, black bad. Hmm...

The top story is about how the forces of the Right need to unite to mash the Liberals into the ground with their jackboots. Inside, we find a "news" article ripping apart author Stevie Cameron, who has uncovered the scandals of disgraced Conservative PM Brian Mulroney and his scary friends.

Finally, we have two ridiculously right-wing opinion pieces supporting Chile's brutal CIA-backed ex-dictator, Augusto Pinochet. One of them virtually calls the murdering Pinochet a hero and says Canada should go out and, get this, instead arrest Cuban President Fidel Castro. What with, buddy? Our soldiers are too busy raping each other or drinking their own vomit. I have a better idea. Let's just arrest Conrad Black for bad journalism.

BY ALEX ROSLIN

Mr. Tom Jackson... The World Barbers' Association gives you this award for best ponytail.
I bet he never has a bad hair day.
I bet it's just a hair extension.
Erland Campbell should have won it!
They love me. They really, really love me.

crackshots!

program wasn't supported. "The trappers have been taken hostage again. They're just thrown aside," he said. "I was kind of sad when I found out. More than sad, angry. Here was this trapper expecting it tomorrow. But, man, it's been shot down. The goose they bred was shot before it flew. First, the forestry case, now this."

Innu back Val-Saint-François protesters

The Innu are lending their support to the people of Val-Saint-François in their fight against a new Hydro-Quebec power line in the Eastern Townships.

Hydro says the line is necessary to strengthen its power grid after it got flattened by the ice storm. But the Val-Saint-François people say the line is intended for electricity exports to the U.S., and will ruin a beautiful stretch of countryside.

Their protests have fallen on deaf ears, as the government has rammed through the new line with decrees and exempted it from environmental-impact hearings.

The Innu said they know how the Townshippers feel. "Hydro-Quebec is always King and master of the land to the detriment of the people affected and without really considering people's opinions," said Guy Bellefleur, spokesman for the Mamu Pakatau Mamit Assembly.

"Is it normal that a state corporation and a government don't listen to the citizens? My people have been imprisoned because they wanted to defend their land. Hydro-Quebec uses the courts to stop us from defending our land. When it sees land, it sees a dollar sign."

Innu Elder Philip Dietachaud said, "Hydro is going to gradually kill us. Because of the flooding caused by the dams, I can't pass on my knowledge to my children and grandchildren. Hydro-Quebec is going to kill our culture."

Aatami new Makivik prez

Pita Aatami is the new president of Makivik Corporation. Aatami got 971 votes out of 2,835 cast, or 34 per cent. Former Makivik president Charlie Watt tried to make a come-back but was shut down. He got 811 votes in the Oct. 23 election.

Just over 60 per cent of eligible voters cast a ballot. There were 22 spoiled ballots.

Mountie won't be charged

An Alberta Mountie won't face criminal charges in the high-profile shooting deaths last March of a Native woman and her 9-year-old son.

Connie Jacobs, 37, and her son Ty died after RCMP responded to a domestic complaint in Tsuu T'ina, outside Calgary. The Mountie claimed he acted in self-defence.

Jacob's relatives condemned the decision. "There is no justice for my sister. I feel upset because the evidence in the report is that of the RCMP," said one.

The Best of James Bay

The people have spoken

The 2nd annual best of James Bay is here! You, the people, have spoken. We received a record number of entries this year. Thank you to those who took the time to let us know who you think is the best. Till next year, congratulations to our winners.

Best Community Contribution (Man)
1st Abel Bosum Jr.
2nd Chief Dr. Billy Diamond
3rd Thomas Coon

Best Community Contribution (Woman)
1st Chief Violet Pachanos
2nd Susan Esau
3rd Rhonda Spencer, Gertie Murdoch, Anna Bosum (tied)

Most Outstanding Elder
1st Robbie Matthew Sr.
2nd Billy Blacksmith
3rd Alex Weistche

Most Outstanding Youth
1st Ashley Iserhoff
2nd Samson Weistche, Patrick Mianscum, Matthew Iserhoff (tied)

Most Outstanding Tallyman
1st Mario Lord
2nd Freddy Jolly
3rd David Bosum, George Stewart, Matthew Wapachee, Charlie Diamond, Tommy Voyageur (tied)

3rd best story teller, Alex Roslin visits best UFO sighting spot, Whapmagoostui.

Best Hunter
1st Bernard Diamond, My father, Paul Salt, Sanders Weistche, Charles Matoush, Charlie Iserhoff, Charlie Diamond

Future Best Fisher at four years, two years running, Larry Jolly. He once caught a seagull at his secret spot.

Best Fisher
1st Larry Jolly
2nd Jonathan Kitchen, Stanley Mianscum
3rd Henry Stewart, Raymond Blackned

Fastest Goose Plucker
1st Mary Diamond
2nd Winnie Namagoose, Eva Ratt
3rd Mabel MacLeod
Honourable mention: Sandra Bullock

Best Storyteller
1st Ronnie Cowboy
2nd George Diamond Sr.
3rd Daisy Cheezo, Robbie Matthew, Alex Roslin

Best Politician
1st Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come
2nd Chief Billy Diamond
3rd Chief Violet Pachanos ("she holds two offices")

Best Cree Media (person or organization)
1st Portage, The Nation (tied)
2nd CBC-North, "Rock 'n Rod" Roderick Rabbitskin, Arnold Cheechoo "Arnold, of course", Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come

Best Cultural Contribution
1st Cultural Institute
2nd Anna Bosum
3rd CTA, Kenny Mianscum

Honourable Mention, Most disliked politician: Sonny Orr gives peace to his supporter.

Best Artist
1st Tim Whiskeychan
2nd Glenna Matoush
3rd Pakeesue Mukash, Morley Stewart

Best Musician
1st Darryl S. Hester
2nd Johnny Cooper, Kenny Mianscum, Pakeesue Mukash, Robert Bobbish
3rd Francine Weistche

Best Cook
1st My mom
2nd Bernice Kitchen
3rd Angela Moar

Best UFO Sighting Spot
1st Whapmagoostui
2nd Chisasibi
3rd James Bay

Best Athlete
1st Wally Rabbitskin
2nd Louis Mianscum
3rd Randy Shecapio

Best Checkers/Chess Player
1st David Blackned
2nd Old men from Chisasibi Commercial Centre/Chisasibi Elders
3rd Charlie Coon, Billy Blacksmith

Cree Most Likely to Change the System
1st Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come
2nd Ashley Iserhoff, Bertie Wapachee, Chief Violet Pachanos, Chief Kenny Loon

Best Gossiper
1st Neil Diamond
2nd The Nation
3rd Winnie Bosum, Bruce Diamond

Worst Band Council
1st Waswanipi
2nd Wemindji
3rd Waskaganish

Best Pool Player
1st Charles Katapatuk
2nd Smally Brien
3rd Albert Stephen

Best Band Council
1st O.J., Waskaganish
2nd Chisasibi, Mistissini, Nemaska
3rd Eastmain

Smartest Cree
1st Eric House
2nd Matthew Coon Come, me, Kenny Loon

Most Disliked Politician
1st John Kitchen, Walter Hughboy
2nd Paul Dixon, Premier Lucien Bouchard, President Bill Clinton
honourable mention, Sonny Orr

Funniest Cree
1st George P. Hester
2nd Bentley Mianscum
3rd Neil Diamond

Cont'd on Page 19

Cont'd from page 11

If I were Grand Chief...

We asked you to complete this sentence, "If I were grand Chief..."

If I were Grand Chief...

"I would be concerned about seeing my land more often. I would not want to live in the city all the time."

"I would visit all nine Cree communities two or three times a year, gather all people in one place of the community, and find out how they're doing, especially with their chief."

"I would change the lawyers and put Cree lawyers in there, train youth interns, cooperate with Cree media and keep my word and update resolutions yearly."

"Use all moneys to create jobs, start industries, stop wasting on lawyers and consultants and trips all over the world."

"I would try hard to change the system."

"I'd put the youth as a priority. Take the Crees into the next millenium with a big bang."

"I would focus on self-government and review the whole system because it would be for the better to change our system. We are not going anywhere unless there's change."

"I would give opportunities to the youth because they're the future."

"I would announce my candidacy for P.M. in the next elections, so our people would be more vocal."

Outstanding Elder Robbie Matthew Sr.

"I'd have a vacation every month in Hawaii with my mistress (be like Bill Clinton)."

"I'd pave all the roads in the nine communities."

"I would involve more women in the decision-making process. Maybe if we had more women, stuff like 'Bill Clinton' wouldn't happen."

"I would ensure Elders and women were used more on committees and in contributing to decisions."

"Go to Disney World!"

"No comment. I do not want to be a Grand Chief."

"I would try to complete projects for our communities and fight for the rights of our people, till we win the battle of our culture."

"I would be living in a reserve. I would listen more to our Elders, would make education a priority and not sports!"

"I would help the youth a lot especially the youth from Ojay. They need help and I am one of them!"

"I'd probably have more money than I do now."

"I would improve the appearance of The Nation. And I would let the beer chase the blues away."

"I would get more non-Native police in the community."

"First move, I'd kick Hydro-Quebec and the forestry companies off the land. Second, I would separate the Cree territory from Canada and Quebec."

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If i were Grand Chief...

Smartest Cree **Eric House** giving smart advice to **Matthew Mukash** Chief of best UFO sighting spot, Whapmagoostui. Behind every smart Cree is... **Irene House** stands by her man.

"I would hire a task force to work on various issues that are most damaging in our communities:

1. Preserving our way of life without sacrificing our children's future.

2. Putting funds toward a family treatment centre instead of wasting it on a gate which doesn't deal with the problem(s) that arise with alcohol abuse such as conjugal violence, child neglect, drunk driving to name a few.

3. Promote awareness in schools concerning birth control, STDs, sexual harassment, assault, suicide. Install condom dispensers so they are more readily available.

4. In dire need of trained and experienced counselors who can best deal with individuals who require the support of a professional.

5. Another priority would be reviewing the housing selection process.

6. Not a priority but it would be nice to have bicycle trails, hiking trails, swimming lessons and so forth to promote the importance of an active lifestyle."

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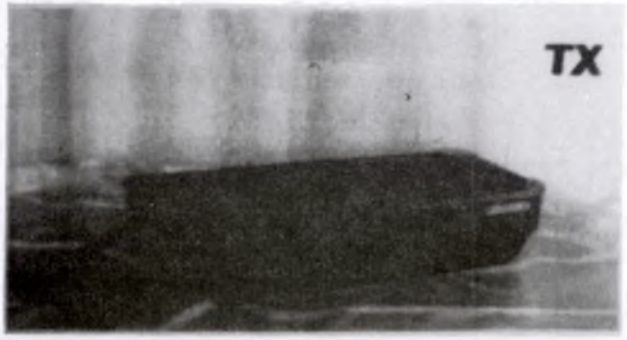

Best Cree artist **Tim Whiskeychan** works on his next masterpiece as 3rd best artist **Morley Stewart** goes for the artists brush

The winners speak...

"I'm surprised. I didn't know that many people knew about me playing music."
Darryl S. Hester

"I want a recount!"
Charles Hester, The Portage (tied with The Nation)

"He's funny, he's really like that. I don't know where he got it from. Probably from our late dad. He was like that."
Josephine, sister of George P. Hester (funniest Cree 2nd year in a row)

"No secret. My invention. Simple ingredients."
Margaret Moar of Jacob Restaurant. Best hamburger after McDonalds.

"I'm very happy. Everything I do, I try to do my best. Before I learned everything by watching my mother-in-law.
Mary Diamond, fastest goose plucker

Oh terrific!
Walter's spokesperson

"No comment"
White House spokesperson

cont'd on page 17

Most disliked politician **John Kitchen** at news conference announcing another hated policy.

Best community contribution **Violet Pachanos**, contributes.

Best Cree Musician **Darryl S. Hester** at work at the **Portage**, Best Cree Media tied with the **Nation.**

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Novice Hockey	Four (4)	$ 250.00	$ 1,000.00	$ 500.00
Atom Hockey	Four (4)	$ 250.00	$ 1,000.00	$ 500.00
Pee-Wee Hockey	Four (4)	$ 250.00	$ 1,000.00	$ 500.00
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Midget Hockey	Four (4)	$ 350.00	$ 1,500.00	$ 750.00
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Cadette Broomball	Four (4)	$ 250.00	$ 1,000.00	$ 500.00
Midget Broomball	Four (4)	$ 350.00	$ 1,500.00	$ 750.00
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Prize money may vary depending on the number of teams that register.

Note:** Deadline for inscriptions is: ***NOVEMBER 13, 1998

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1st Waswanipi Cafeteria
2nd Roderick's Restaurant
3rd Moulin Rouge (Chiboug.)

Best Hamburger
1st McDonald's Big Mac
2nd Jacob's
3rd Brien's, La Paryse

Best Pizza
1st Pizza Hut
2nd Mike's
3rd Chisasibi Mitchuap Rest., Angela's (Mtl.), Chip stand (Wask.)

Best Bar/Club
1st Chateau Inn
2nd Winny's
3rd Chateau Louis

Best Grocery Store
1st Metro
2nd Chisasibi Co-op, Loblaws

Rowdiest Bar
1st Chateau Louis
2nd Cristal's
3rd Bar Central

Best Hotel
1st Sheraton Centre
2nd L'Escale
3rd Confortel

Best Hunting Supplies
1st Baron
2nd Mario Monger
3rd Sport Expert (Rouyn)

Wachiya... Best gift shop

Best Fishing Supplies
1st Baron
2nd Siibii Supplies
3rd Sport Expert (Rouyn), Ferplus

Best Sports Supplies
1st Podium
2nd Sports Express
3rd Sport Expert (Rouyn)

Best Bridal Shop
1st Jaymore's
2nd St. Hubert St. Plaza

Best Flower Shop
1st Diane Fleuriste
2nd Helene Fleuriste
3rd Mother Nature; wild flowers in the woods (they're free)

Best Jewellery Shop
1st Bijouterie Val d'Or Enrg
2nd Bijouterie Riche Or
3rd Bijouterie Baribeau

Best Children's Clothing
1st The Gap for Kids
2nd Au coin des petits
3rd Geant des Aubaines

Best Toy Store
1st Toys "R" Us
2nd Dollarama

Best Furniture Shop
1st Meubles Marchand
2nd Meubles Selections
3rd Ikea

Best Music Shop
1st HMV
2nd Sam The Record Man
3rd Polyson

Coolest Clothing Store
1st Stitches
2nd Le Chateau, Rio sud Val d'Or
3rd Bo Jeans

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Congratulations on receiving your honourary Doctor of Laws degree from Trent University on October 2nd. This recognition is well-deserved for your efforts to promote Cree rights and protect Eeyou Istchee.
Congratulations also to your family for their support over the years.

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CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY
ADMINISTRATION REGIONALE CRIE

CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY

Christopher Columbus arrested and deported

BY THE INDIGENOUS SUPPORT COALITION OF OREGON (taken from the Internet)

Admiral Christopher Columbus, infamous explorer and pillager of already-occupied continents, was arrested Monday at the University of Oregon in Eugene. He was charged with aggravated murder, first degree rape, first degree sodomy, kidnapping, theft, fraud, assault with deadly intent, trespass and criminal mischief when a bystander witnessed the Admiral accosting students, yelling, "Happy Genocide Day!" demanding gold and threatening to cut off their hands or abduct and sell them into slavery.

"Get outta here with your rotten attitude!" heckled university students, who tried to chase him away, throwing rocks and beer bottles.

Traveling with fencing "Conquistadores," Spanish soldiers in heavy armament, Columbus roared defiantly when confronted by students. "What!? It's MY holiday. Happy Genocide!" Fleeing citizens' arrest and assaulting a bus driver, he was pepper-sprayed by Eugene police and subdued.

King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain were arrested by customs agents at the Madrid airport trying to transport stolen property - gold from Jews and Indians - and could not be reached for comment.

Witnesses said Columbus cowered and waived his Miranda rights while taken into custody, muttering about "liberal plots" against him. A search warrant was served on his ship, which was towed by a mountain bike. When searched by police several dread-locked EarthFirst!ers were found in the hull and released. "Discovered" in Columbus's ship were 10 dozen bars of Black Hills gold, several hundred million board feet of timber stolen from the Williamette National Forest, and a card from a Florence-area developer.

Suspicious the Admiral was hoarding other contraband, the police strip-searched him and held him at the Lane County Corrections Facility until Friday. Determining that the nefarious colonist suffers from paranoid schizophrenia with delusions of grandeur, health officials forcibly administered Halizon, Lane County Corrections officials said.

The Conquistadores were arrested at the California-Mexican border by the Mexican Army. Extradited to Mexico City they face similar charges and, if convicted, the death penalty by a Mexican firing squad, according to an Amnesty International press release.

Christopher Columbus was deported by the Immigration and Naturalization Service Friday to Geneva and charged for violating international laws against slavery, genocide and ecocide. He, Ferdinand and Isabella face a United Nations tribunal comprised of Pagans, Jews, Moors, African-Americans and Indigenous Americans.

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CRITERIA

Applicant must:
- be 21 years of age to be admitted as a mature student. (Note: if younger than 21, must have CEGEP)
- be a fluent Cree speaker
- be a Cree beneficiary

A maximum of 15 students will be accepted in each community. Priority will be given to people working in education.

TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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The Cree Naskapi Commission's Recommendations

By Will Nicholls

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. Discussions should be held between the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee), local Cree and Naskapi Governments, the Government of Quebec and the Government of Canada in order to talk about the future. Included in the discussions:

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

a) completion and regular updating of an education and skills inventory for the Cree and Naskapi communities;

b) a requirement that proposals for development include an outline of educational and training needs for short-term and long-term staffing of the project;

c) a commitment by federal and provincial parties as well as the appropriate Cree and Naskapi entities to provide job-specific, project-related training as required;

d) a commitment in each project proposal, consistent with Canadian human rights guidelines, to provide employment to appropriately trained Cree and Naskapi applicants.

INFRASTRUCTURE

a) development of a long-term plan including target dates and financial resources to develop an infrastructure suited to the emerging needs of the territory and its economic growth;

b) specific plans to train and employ as many Cree and Naskapi community members as possible in both the development and maintenance of this infrastructure.

PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF DEVELOPMENT

a) review and implementation of (or where appropriate, modification to improve) mechanisms in the Agreements (or through Complementary Agreements) to ensure that the Cree and Naskapi communities are **equal partners** in the planning and management process for all development in the territory.

REVENUE SHARING

a) development of draft legislation to ensure that the revenues generated by development in Category II and Category III lands will in future years generate revenues for purposes of Cree and Naskapi local and/or regional government and other beneficial uses as determined by the Cree and Naskapi communities.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

2. The Department of Justice should arrange to provide workshops for senior officials to keep them up to date on the evolution of Aboriginal and treaty rights legislation as well as on the government's fiduciary obligations.

3. Individuals from the levels of director to deputy minister should be appointed only from among those who have demonstrable, substantive knowledge of the issues they will be responsible for managing. In exceptional circumstances, some appointees could be required to successfully complete specific substantive training within their first six months in office.

4. A treaty implementation secretariat totally independent from the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development should be created to manage the fulfilment of the government's obligations under treaties and agreements.

5. A treaty implementation Act should be developed, incorporating much of the new law relating to Aboriginal and treaty rights as well fiduciary law into a single statue that would serve as an authoritative guide for government officials in carrying out their responsibilities under the various agreements and treaties. This new legislation, or a piece of companion legislation, a treaty implementation (financial arrangements) Act for example, should clearly stipulate how the financial aspects of agreements and treaties are to be handled.

6. A superior court of national jurisdiction should be created to handle cases involving treaty and Aboriginal rights. This court would have jurisdiction in those areas as well as in cases arising under the *Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act*, the *Indian Act*, the *Sechelt Indian Self-Government Act* and similar pieces of legislation. In addition, it could be given appellate jurisdiction in cases coming from future First Nations courts. Appeals from such a court of Aboriginal and treaty rights would be heard by the Federal Court of Appeal and then the Supreme Court of Canada.

The justices of such a court would be nominated by First Nations and appointed by the Governor in Council, and the court could be administered as a division of the Federal Court of Canada. After a 10-year period, the continued need for such a court could be reassessed.

7. A consultation process should be undertaken by the federal, Cree and Naskapi governments to review the Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act in order to achieve the following objectives:

- remove barriers or impediments in the decision-making process;
- improve and simplify the process for amending the Act;
- enable and improve law enforcement;
- reflect the present reality and situation of local government;
- incorporate the Oujé-Bougoumou Cree Nation as a Band;
- improve the effectiveness of the Cree-Naskapi Commission.

8. The Government of Canada and the Cree authorities should, forthwith, review the present funding arrangement such as the 'Operations and Maintenance Funding Transfer Payment Agreement' by taking into account the present situation, changing circumstances and needs of the Cree communities and local governments.

9. The Department of Justice, in concert with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, should amend the firearms control legislation to provide for the appointment of Aboriginal firearms officers, who would have the same powers and authority as a chief firearms officer, proposed by the federal legislation. The Cree and Naskapi people should be exempt from licensing and registration fees. In addition, the amendments should permit the Cree and Naskapi local governments to dispense a firearms safety course and issue firearms licences and registration certificates.

10. A thorough and meaningful review of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement and the Northeastern Quebec Agreement should be conducted by all parties concerned. It is also necessary to establish a process and mechanism that will bind all parties to respect and honour obligations, responsibilities and commitments under the Agreements.

11. Cree and Naskapi communities should be provided adequate financial resources to provide effective policing services for their communities and their police

cont'd on page 23

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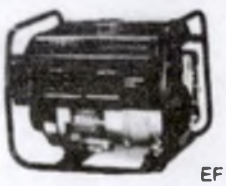

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cont'd from page 21

should have and exercise jurisdiction outside of Category I lands.

12. The tallymen should be given powers to act as conservation agents for the entire territory.

13. The Federal Administrator, the federal members of the Environmental and Social Impact Review Panel and federal officials should not interfere with the jurisdiction, decision-making power and authority of the Local Environment Administrator. Moreover, the Government of Canada should respect and honour its obligations, responsibilities and roles pursuant to Section 22 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

14. Cree and Naskapi traditional approaches to justice issues should be recognized, and a thorough and meaningful review of the justice and police sections of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement should be undertaken to facilitate the establishment and implementation of a local justice system for the proper administration of justice.

15. The final transfers of Category I lands and the allocation of Category II lands should only be completed after discussions and agreement with the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the local Cree First Nations regarding the boundaries and related issues. However, the final transfers of Category I land should be done as soon as possible.

16. The two hundred (200)-foot corridor along the shorelines of lakes and rivers in Cree Category I lands should be abolished.

17. A final land selection and categorization along the shorelines of bodies of water within Cree Category I lands should be finalized by the authorities concerned (including the Cree).

18. The status of the Cree claims to offshore islands intervening waters and seabeds in Hudson's Bay and James Bay should be resolved between the Cree and Canada as soon as possible through negotiations.

19. The federal government should speed up the process for the final transfer of Category I A-N lands to the Naskapi, along with the approval of the Band's formal name change.

20. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development should enter into a dialogue with the Washaw Sibi Eeyou regarding their claims, rights and concerns in the territory.

21. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development should begin a dialogue with the Naskapi Nation with a view to resolving the Naskapi claims in Labrador as soon as possible.

22. The Cree local governments and the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) should initiate a process to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the local and regional entities and institutions in the exercise of Cree self-government.

23. The formal incorporation of the Oujé-Bougoumou Cree into the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement should be finalized.

24. The adjustment formula in the present Oujé-Bougoumou O&M funding Agreement should be re-examined to bring it into line with present realities and the actual needs of the community.

25. The federal government should participate in the process of updating Section 15 of the Northeastern Quebec Agreement, and the Naskapi and the Cree should review the possibility of parallel actions with both Agreements.

26. The federal government should become involved, either as a participant or as an observer, in the review of Section 11 of the Northeastern Quebec Agreement.

COMMUNITY SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

CHISASIBI

27. The federal government, in its role as fiduciary to the Chisasibi Cree Nation, particularly as regards Chisasibi's rights under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, should assist Chisasibi in getting recognition of its rights in relation to Block D.

EASTMAIN

28. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and the Eastmain Chief and Council should begin discussions to deal with the capital cost of the new Band office and the replacement costs of heavy equipment.

29. An environmental clean-up of old unused oil tanks and other debris at the site of the former diesel power plant should be carried out by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

30. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, in consultation with the Eastmain Chief and Council should develop plans for a new waste disposal site.

31. The health needs of Eastmain, especially in relation to respiratory problems and diabetes, should be addressed jointly by Eastmain, Cree Health and Social Services and the Medical Services Branch of the Department of Health as soon as possible.

32. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development should enter into discussions with Eastmain to develop and fund needed youth programs and facilities.

MISTISSINI

33. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Mistissini should begin developing plans to eliminate the housing backlog by a specified target date.

34. The Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and Cree local Governments and communities should begin discussions on the development of a Cree Constitution.

35. Transport Canada should conclude the environmental assessment of the Nitchiquon site as scheduled and carry out the necessary environmental clean-up.

WEMINDJI

36. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development should review concerns regarding the community's water rights, and resolve these concerns with the Wemindji Chief and Council.

37. A process should be established to address the urgent needs of the tallymen for control over unauthorized intrusion on their traplines and hunting territories.

WASWANIPI

38. The special needs of the Elders and youth should be addressed jointly with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and an action plan should be developed.

NEMASKA

39. Nemaska and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development should enter into discussions to resolve Nemaska's outstanding claim for $3.85 million to cover the cost of the access road, including capital and maintenance.

40. Old Poste should be designated as a historic site, since it has rock paintings and numerous other features of historic interest.

41. Quebec should waive stumpage fees for timber used in developing the Old Poste site.

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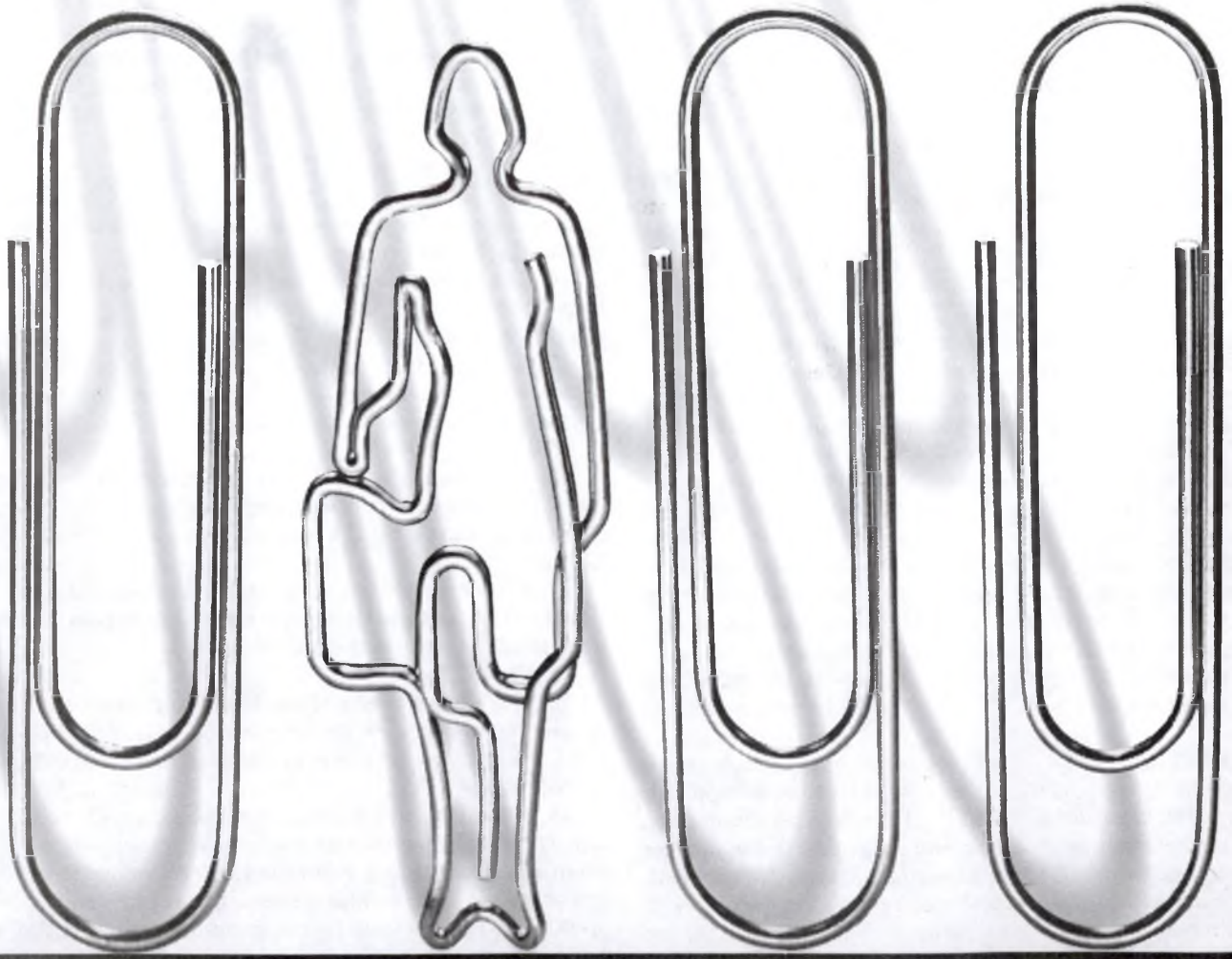

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Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité
Emploi-Québec

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HOCKEY NEWS

Cree Nation Bears start season with a "perfect weekend"

The Bears EXPLODED last weekend in Amos during the Inter-City Bantam "CC" opening gala to start up the season. The Bears returned home with three straight victories, scoring big! The Bears had also completed their roster with two additional players from Moose Factory: Leonard Small (forward) and Greg Blackned (goalie).

The results from last weekend in Amos:

1st game - October 10
Bears 6, Ville-Marie 3
Stats:
1st goal: David Neeposh, assist Leonard Small
2nd goal: Matthew Sam, assist Leonard Small and David Neeposh
3rd goal: Leonard Small, assist Ian Stewart
4th goal: Leonard Small, assist David Neeposh and Matthew Sam
5th goal: Jeremy Jolly-Gull, assist Charlie Dick and Naaman Cooper
6th goal: Matthew Sam, assist Leonard Small and David Neeposh
Goalie for the game: Greg Blackned

2nd game - October 10
Bears 6, Malartic 2
Stats:
1st goal: Naaman Cooper, unassisted
2nd goal: John Ross Visitor, assist David Shem and Randy Weistche
3rd goal: Matthew Sam, assist Leonard Small and David Neeposh
4th goal: Leonard Sam, assist Matthew Sam and David Neeposh
5th goal: Charlie Dick, assist Jeremy Jolly-Gull and Leonard Small
6th goal: Jeremy Jolly-Gull, assist Charlie Dick and John Ross Visitor
Goalie for the game: Byron Sam (wearing illegal face mask), had to be replaced by Greg Blackned

3rd game - October 11
Bears 4, Ste-Germaine 1
Stats:
1st goal: Leonard Small, assist Robbie Metabie and Matthew Sam
2nd goal: Leonard Small, assist Christopher Swallow
3rd goal: Naaman Cooper, assist Ian Stewart
4th goal: John Ross Visitor, assist Randy Weistche and Christopher Swallow
Goalie for the game: Byron Sam

BEARS WIN 7-5 OVER AMOS

Also, last weekend in the 4th regular season game against the defending champion team, Amos, the Bears defeated Amos in a 7-5 victory.

Stats:
1st goal: David Neeposh, assist Andrew Biron and Leonard Small
2nd goal: Naaman Cooper, assist Jeremy Jolly-Gull and Charlie Dick
3rd goal: Ian Stewart, assist Wayne Gilpin and Randy Weistche
4th goal: Naaman Cooper, assist Andrew Biron
5th goal: Naaman Cooper "hat trick," assist David Neeposh and Leonard Small
6th goal: Andrew Biron, assist Jeremy Jolly-Gull
7th goal: David Neeposh, assist Leonard Small and Wayne Gilpin

DECEMBER SENIOR TOURNEY MOVES BACK TO VAL D'OR!

Recreation Directors from all communities took the decision to move back the December senior tournament to Val d'Or, a decision influenced by easy access (good old Val d'Or!), and a new "partnership deal" initiated by the city of Val d'Or, the Chamber of Commerce and Cree entities, in collaboration with the Native Friendship Centre. The decision was made in the spirit of developing a partnership based on friendly and open relationships on different issues.

According to Recreation Directors, extra efforts have also been significant this summer during the softball tournament held in Val d'Or, as local businesses generously sponsored the tournament.

No negative comments to say about last year's tournament hosted by the welcoming city of Rouyn. Rec. Directors say they will actually miss their "better facilities" and appreciated their participation. But, like they say: Money talks, b..... walks!

OTHER NEWS!

Upcoming games to watch for in upcoming weeks:

Forestiers Amos - Midget "AAA" League (Charly Washipabano and Ryan Weistche)
Nov. 7: Forestiers Amos - Levis 14h00 (in Levis, Quebec City)
Nov. 8: Forestiers Amos - Ste-Foy 14h00 (in Ste-Foy)
Nov. 14: Charles Lemoyne - Forestiers Amos 19h00 (in Amos)
Nov. 15: Charles Lemoyne - Forestiers Amos 14h00 (in Amos)

Chibougamau Ambassadeurs - Midget "AA" League (Wesley Trapper, Jordan Coonishish, Jerry Matoush)
Nov. 7: Chib. Ambassadeurs - La Baie 19h00 (in La Baie)
Nov. 8: Ambassadeurs - St- Felicien 15h00 (in St-Felicien)
Nov. 14: Ambassadeurs - Dyna. Chicoutimi 19h30 (in Chicoutimi)
Nov. 15: Ambassadeurs - Dolbeau 14h00 (in Dolbeau)

Cree Nation Bears - Bantam "CC" League
Nov. 7: Bears- Quevillon 13h00 (in Quevillon)
Nov. 14: Val d'Or - Bears 12h00
Nov. 14: Val d'Or - Bears 18h00

IN OTHER NEWS...

Cree hockey players are starting a "Cree club," in Timmins, Ontario. Already there, Ryan Sam (chocolate) Bantam AA Major, also Bobby Napash - Bantam AA Minor. Now joining them: John Napash-Nuktie - Bantam AA Minor - and Abe Jolly Jr. - Northern Allied Bantam AAA. Watch for hockey games in Timmins this winter!

Before the regular schedule started, Lance Blacksmith and Richard Ottereyes were sent home by the Chibougamau Ambassadeurs. Ernie Trapper did not make it to the Amos Cometes' juvenile league for lack of financial assistance.

Well! Fall gets "colder"... leaves turn yellow and while some hockey players see the colour of money ($$NHL$$), some others out there... originally from James Bay... get the blues... I'll tell you more about it next O.K. news! Bon hockey!

BY DOLORES AUDET-WASHIPABANO

tel.: (819) 855-2844 - ext. 5323
(819) 855-2608 (res.)
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continued from page 6

Istchee. It is not. Some think that we cannot live without Quebec/Canada, but that is not true either. We have land, we have resources, we would have an economy that would see our people working in the neighbourhood of 90 per cent or more, if we were the ones to fulfill our destiny of sovereignty and/or province-hood. We are made so unwelcome in this province, even though it is our only home, because we speak a different language, and many of our people's second language is English, another strike against us. I am very discouraged at the future of our people in this society. It might seem okay in the outside, but it is not okay. It might not be the majority of Quebecers who want French only in Quebec, or want to separate from Canada, but it seems that we are caught in the middle. I have many French friends, also English, but I would go on my own if it was my choice, because I do not want my children to have to choose between the two. I just want peace on "My Land, My Country." But it is getting out of hand, and I only want peace and prosperity for my people, and if it means sovereignty and/or creation of a Cree Homeland, then let it be. It is getting to the point where it is almost unsafe to be Native or English in Quebec, or vice versa.

I am very tired of being on the news almost every day, because I am not French. They want to take my land, they want to push me into thinking, talking and seeing French, which I do not want. I have no quarrel with the French people, but please tell them to leave us alone. This is a little corner of the world that was given to us by the Creator, tell them that. Because if it happens that they win the next referendum, I will not, will not be part of it. I want my own country and/or province. They can keep the southern half, and we can keep our own corner and all that is in it. Everything, the dams, the mines, future mining sites, the trees, the water, natural resources and all our Sacred places.

It has been done where new countries are created. It is almost a daily thing in the old Socialist Republics, and other parts of the world. That does not mean that we would destroy everything that has been built, but we would be the owners, and anybody, French, English, Polish or any people, would

be welcome, as long as they would go through the proper immigration routes, once we had them established. Does that sound exciting? I think it is exciting and realistic. I tell you, it is not impossible, we can do it. Hospitals would be built or upgraded. A democratic and social structure would be created and upgraded, with many of the policies, systems and laws correlating from Cree values and traditions. Roads would be built or upgraded, and a new relationship would be negotiated with the rest of Quebec and/or Canada if they wanted. They would have to because of the resources that would be under our control. Of course, an army or something similar would have to be assembled and equipped, since we would need some kind of a defense system. We would have to buy with our own money many things to put our country together, and that is where we would need all our people to work. I guess our neighbours would reap a lot of the benefits too, since we would be buying many things we would need to build our country, and many skilled and professional people would have to be hired from the outside to help build, maintain and develop our Cree Homeland.

With the above scenario, we would never have to worry about being forced into something that we did not want to do, or want developed. Our destiny would be ours. There would be no more court cases involving laws that we did not write. No more wasted time fighting court cases pertaining to our basic human rights. No more bills that are designed to limit our rights as a Peoples, and above all, we would be charting a prosperous future for our people, and those yet to be born. Of course it would not be easy, but what is? It seems like a sorry scenario also, to come to this, but we are being pushed, and the limit is not far, or have we arrived at our limit already?

I got carried away, but I find the above issues to be very important and legitimate also. But we still need to be included in the benefits of the southern cultures today, because we are not apart from Canada and Quebec yet. Just because we live in the North, we should still be able to have the same telephone rates as the rest of the country (Sprint, Bell, etc.) The technology is there, the equipment is there for us to use. Okay. Wachiya, in Nationhood.

C.H.S. In Cree Country

Call to alumni

Letter to *The Nation*:

To the former students of the Shingwauk Residential School,

The Alumni Council of the Singwauk Residential School which was created in 1983 solely for the purposes of acting as an administrative body of the Shingwauk Residence wishes to maintain contact with all former students of the residence.

As of the present, the communication committee of the Alumni Council is in the process of developing an information database regarding the residence.

All former students who have interests in maintaining contact should submit their names and addresses to:

Gregg Fletcher
The children of Shingwauk Alumni Association
Algoma University Office
Shingwauk Hall
Sault Ste-Marie, Ont.
P6A 2G4
or:
Peter J. Gull
P.O. Box 90
1 Tamarack Street
Waswanipi, Qc.
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Jeffrey Simpson's conundrum

Letter to *The Nation*:

The economic future of First Nations is

not, as columnist Jeffrey Simpson believes (*The Globe and Mail*, Oct. 15), dependent on geography. Rather, improved access to resources and capital represent the keys to Aboriginal prosperity.

Canadians must realize that the lack of employment opportunities on First Nations reserves is due to restrictions of a government-imposed Indian Act, and not because of will on First Nations' part. While media commentators railed against this summer's roadblocks at Listuguj, how many stopped to think that the protest was really about a group of unemployed Canadians fighting for the right to earn a living for themselves?

Simpson's hypothesis in "The Aboriginal Conundrum" is that "reserve lands are often too isolated or of too marginal economic use to provide an employment base." It is a mystery to me why pulp and paper, mining and fishing companies are removing resources from remote areas near First Nations communities at a rate never before seen. These resources are not too remote to maintain the economies of the nearby non-Aboriginal communities.

This begs the question, "Why do First Nations not start their own companies to take advantage of the resources?" In order to start a business you need start-up capital. Under ordinary circumstances a businessperson would go to their bank for a loan in order to acquire necessary equipment and assets. Not so for First Nations on reserve. Section 69 of the Indian Act, which was supposed to protect First Nations land from seizure, paradoxically prohibits First Nations land from being mortgaged, hence it also prevents reserve lands from being used as collateral. Therefore conventional bank financing for business start-up in many cases is not available.

Simpson's column suggests that the "remoteness" of First Nations communities eliminates the link between education and job growth that exists in mainstream societies. But he fails to understand the vicious circle created by the inability of First Nations to control their own economic destinies. In order to retain educated people on reserves there must be on-reserve economies to provide attractive business and employment opportunities. When First Nations have neither access to resources in their traditional territories not access to conventional financing and capital, they have great difficulty creating vibrant economies.

Some Canadians scream loudly about the $985 million spent on welfare payments keeping Indian families fed and clothed. Only a small amount of that money stays on reserve because there is usually no local on-reserve economy to retain it.

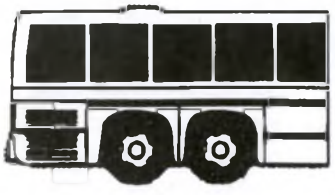
Most of that social assistance finds its way into the pockets of the non-Indian businesspeople who complain around the dinner table about how Indians are drains on the national economy. A study of five First Nations in Nova Scotia showed that over 90 per cent of monies coming onto reserves is spent at nearby businesses in surrounding communities. It's as if Indians are merely endorsing government cheques for the people who are really enjoying the benefits.

The National Chief, Phil Fontaine, has one message: "Economic self-sufficiency is necessary for self-determination." He encourages partnerships like that of Weyerhauser, The Lac la Rouge, Montreal Lake and Peter Ballantyne bands who formed a joint venture called Wapaneka to construct a $22-million curve sawmill - creating over 100 jobs for these communities. With projects like this more of our people will stay in their community where there's work.

Unhampered by antiquated government-imposed regulations, First Nations people have proven they can survive and thrive in any climate, in any location.

After all, we have been here since the world began.

Dale Booth
Director, Economic Development
Assembly of First Nations
Member, Nootkamegwannig First Nation



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Food for thought

BY XAVIER KATAQUAPIT

Lately I have been hearing about much illness in my circle of friends and family. This makes me realize I should be very happy and grateful for my own health. Often, I hear news from home, in Attawapiskat, of someone having a cold or the flu and it seems like many people in my community are constantly battling some kind of illness.

I believe that part of the problem with the general health of most Native communities up the James Bay coast is diet. The diet of many households in remote Native communities is made up of foods that are economical to purchase, easy and fast to prepare. This is done due to the high cost of most foods that must be transported by aircraft. With large families to feed, most people purchase inexpensive canned and packaged goods, such as wieners, Kraft dinner, canned soups, Klik and canned stews.

Many families in remote First Nation communities do not include nutritious foods like vegetables and fruits as part of their diet. There are no farms in or near these communities, hence fresh produce is an unknown. I must point out that my dad actually managed to grow an incredible number of potatoes this summer on an island near Attawapiskat; this is definitely not the norm. Too often, people decide on meals that are fast to prepare and usually do not include fresh produce.

Since most people cannot buy fresh produce, there is a high consumption of packaged and canned goods that are detrimental to a person's health. This is more so if these foods are used on a long-term basis. Most packaged and canned goods contain a fair amount of preservatives, nitrates and other chemicals that can be harmful. Some of these chemicals have been suspected of being carcinogenic.

In addition to not having access to fresh and fair-priced produce, my people have also had to deal with the fact that they were forced to give up a way of life that once guaranteed a generally balanced diet. The Crees on the James Bay coast were a nomadic people of hunters and gatherers. In the old days before the coming of the Europeans and modernization, my people moved in search of food and with the seasons. The diet then was mostly wild meat, fish, berries and edible plants. Our grocery store was our front yard and our front yard moved around in search of food. The food was fresh and nutritious.

With the coming of the Europeans, we were forced into restricted areas of land and to a great degree had to give up our nomadic traditional lifestyle. Of course, this also led to a change in diet. These days many of us who work in these communities don't have the time to pursue a traditional way of life to put food on the table. We have big families and we are busy. Many of my people are underemployed and have difficulty affording any nutritious, more expensive food brought in by air. All in all, I am sad to say this all leads to poor diets with a result of much sickness and general poor health.

Come to think of it, maybe my dad, Marius, has the right idea. It could be that it is time for us to start growing at least those vegetables that are hardy enough to survive the short summers up on the James Bay coast. Perhaps, the development of greenhouses to produce fresh produce on a year-round basis is a possibility; just think, not only would it provide for nutritious affordable food but it would also be a make-work project.

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101 - BIRTHDAYS

An unforgettable birthday to an incredible fiancee, Melisa Pash. Happy birthday lovingness and enjoy your 22nd year. Your kindred spirit...Marc Antoine. XXX (Melisa - Val d'Or- 28th of October.

Birthday wishes across the miles. Happy birthday to my uncle Derek Mayappo on October 25, 1998 who is in Nicolet. I love you and I miss you very much and I'll see you soon. hang in there. Love, your nephew Dakota.

Happy belated birthday to Sherry on October 9, 19978. Also to Theresa w. on October 11, 1998. Hope you two had a blast except[t for you Theresa! (joke) Anyways, take care from friends in Ojay.

Happy belated birthday to Willy Bosum on October 6, 98. Hope you two had the time of your life. Take care of that face.

I want to wish my wife Linda a happy birthday on November 21. For 11 years that I've been with you, there was never a time that I really meant "I love you and have a happy birthday." and I mean it this time! Please have a blast with me on this special day. your hubby Mike.

Happy birthday to Derek Mayappo on October 25, 1998. We want you to know that we wish you all the best in life and many more birthdays to come. We strongly encourage you to finish what you started and don't give up your dreams. It will be worth it in the end. Good luck! With all our love. From all of us back home.

We want to wish our mom Linda a happy birthday. She will be thirtysomething. Anyway, mom, you're the greatest and have a wonderful birthday on November 21. From your three angelic children, Miranda, Clayton and Mikhail.

Happy birthday to a good friend of mine on October 19, 98. I wish you lots of wishes that you want them to come true. Enjoy your day. Take your time and God bless you with love always, From a friend who cares about you. Friend always, XXX

Yo! happy first birthday to our beloved grandson Shirdon Waberi on October 10, 10998. Lots of kisses and hugs. Don't get into an accident with your first tricycle. With always, grandpa Charlie Grandma Ella and Uncle Wayne.

Happy birthday to my friend Lorraine in OJ on Nov. 1. Hope to see you. it's been a liong time. Also congrats on your baby boy Redfern. Friend always, Shirley Matoush *(Wasw.)

I would like to wish my niece Rachel Irene Icebound a happy 4th birthday on October 31 and happy halloween. have fun on your birthday,. Love, your aunts Maria Mianscum.

To my best friend Lorraine Icebound. Happy birthday. I hope you will get your present you

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asked for. (world Peace. By the way, hi from Desmaraisville friend Jonathan Ottereyes.

Birthday greetings to all odf my family who will be celebrating their birthdays the month of October. First of all Nancy Icebound on Oct. 12, Missing you, also Valerie, be good. Darell Taylor on the 9th? Hello. Daniel Icebound who's in Peterborough. Good luck. My father Daniel Bosum, luv ya. Charlie Awashish. I don't know the date but happy birthday. I think I have all of you down. Anyway If I missed someone, happy birthday! Love and prayers, Emily, Paul and Boys.

Special birthday wishes going out to my friend my mother Anna Bosum on October. No words can explain how much you mean to me. I love you and I thank the lord above for blessing me with a mother and daughter. It was a blessing. you are a terrific mother to me. I hope I can be a good mother like you. I thank you for your love and everything else around it. Know what mom? I hope to be like you. Oh yeah, Advice. Give yourself a break, take the day off. With all my love, Emily, hugs and kisses from the boys and Paul.

Happy belated birthday to my friends Melinda Georgekish from Waskaganish and Tanya Cooper from Waswanipi. Their b-day were on Oct. 15 (cool, same time) Hope you girls had fun. Take care. Hope to see you son.. Melinda. from JB in Waswanipi.

Happy birthday to my loving and caring Mother Anna Bosum on October 21, 98. Thanks for always being there for me when I'm in trouble. I will always love you. Love always, your daughter Lilybelle Bosum. XOXOXO

Happy belated birthday going out to someone who's loving and caring and that is a sister to me. Sherry Dixon on October 9, 98. Happy 19th birthday! Oh, and I think it's time for you to quit drinking, you don't want to come home really drunk again do you, Love ya! Love always, Lilybelle Bosum. xoxoxoxoxo

Happy belated birthday to someone very special to me, Sandra Dixon on October 15, 1998. So, how's it going in Hull? Love ya! Lily belle Bosum.

Happy first birthday Boodoo girl on October 15, 1998. This goes out to our sunshine Rosalina. Our home is filled with lots of love. The cutest things you do. The hugs and kisses you give us every morning. the sweet things you say like mamma papa and especially when you say Barney, That is so adorable. You fill our lives with happiness and lots of love. Wishing you love and joy and happiness. Once again happy birthday Boodoo. Love always, mommy and day (Esther and Gregory) Nemaska. P.S. Congratulations on your walking out ceremony.

August 29 was a special birthday for my brother Harry Bosum and my new sister-in-law Emille Wesley. Sending you all my love and wishing you the best of luck and hap-

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and Gregory) Nemaska. P.S. Congratulations on your walking out ceremony.

August 29 was a special birthday for my brother Harry Bosum and my new sister-in-law Emille Wesley. Sending you all my love and wishing you the best of luck and happiness for your lifetime together the wedding was beautiful! With love from my heart Naomi B. (OJ) XOX

Birthday greeting to Julie P-House on Oct,. 30. I wish you good health an happiness, thank you so much for the little and big things you do for us. Wishing you many more birthdays and God bless you. Love, your mom.

Happy 2nd birthday to John Ross House on Sept. 27. An adorable angel sent to us two years ago and you've grown so much. We love you so much. Hugs and kisses, Love, Kokum.

happy belated birthday wishes to Tarynne on Oct 7 and to Mark on Oct. 17 in Ottawa Ont. You were thought of here in Chisasibi and may you have many more b-days. take care. Love from G1-10 Chisasibi.

Happy birthday to my boyfriend Abraham on November 6. There's a place in my heart where no one else has reached, a place where only you have touched, by just smiling at me. Or the way you hold my hand. Or by being yourself when we are alone. Just wanted to remind you how much I'm in love with you. I love you with all my heart. Love always, Mara.

OBITUARY

Suddenly on Saturday, August 15, 1998, Aaron Tyrone Floyd Hester, nearly 6 months old passed away peacefully. Loving son of Angela Etapp and Floyd Hester (Waskaganish), he is sadly missed by family and friends but will always be remembered for the way he touched our lives in a special way with his sweet smiling face. we love you little one. From your auntie Rachel and Karl Simard.

Happy birthday to a friend in Pikogan on October 13, 98. Wish you a good time and enjoy your day. From Lucie M. Pepabano. Happy birthday dear Joyce. Happy birthday to you, happy birthday dear Joyce, happy birthday to you!!!!Friend always, your buddy. You're 27 years old. Wow!

102- WEDDINGS

Congratulations to Suzie and Walter Rupert, their wedding on October 9, 98. We wish you a lot of happiness along the life and many kids to come. From harry, Laura, Wally, paddy, Jessie, Rex, Lucie, Martin, Tina and Jeremy, Steven and 2 babies to come. Gabriel.

Congratulations to Suzie and Walter on October 9, 98. From Fred and Margaret Mowatt, your parents, your uncles and aunts Jos Mowatt and Elizabeth Mapachee, Louise and Jimmy McKenzie, Annie and Fred Trapper, George Mowatt and Harry and Laura McKenzie, Agnes McKenzie and Raymond Polson.

103-ANNIVERSARY

My parents, your so important to me. With out you nothing would've mattered. You show me that you care by your concerned words. Without you life is not worth living for. Because each day I see you both your faces say carry on and that keeps me going to face another day with you. I know I can rely on you both when I need a hand. You give me faith hope and strength for better tomorrows. You're so important to me. There aren't any other parents in the world who could ever take your place in my life. Happy 29th belated anniversary to the two most important in my life. My parents Dave and Anna Bosum on September 5, 1998. With all my love, Naomi Bosum. XOX1/2 (OJ)

Happy 10th anniversary to two special people, my sister-in-law Cecilia and to my brother in law Dave Mianscum on October 15. I love you both very much. And next year when you guys go on your anniversary again. I can keep little Wabiguins again. Love always, little sis, Lilybelle. xoxoxooxoxxo

In memorium of my late father Isaac Coonishish (October 20, 1992) It has been six years that you departed from us, we still hold you close within our hearts and there you will always remain. Always thinking of you, dad. Your son Michael, Linda and three kids.

300- PERSONALS.

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I would like to reach sisters Kimberley and Wanita Sackney from Moose factory. Last time I heard from you was in 87 or before. we met in Deseronto, Ont.. I lost your address cause I live in Chisasibi, Que. Please write me OK? L. McKenzie, PO Box 231, Chisasibi, Qc. JOM 1E0

Hi to my friends in Chisasibi, Brandy pepabano and Nancy Matthew. So, how's Chisasibi so far? You guys miss Super Club? Hope to see you gals soon. Hey Nancy, the boy is mine. Kidding (I still remember) Lena Bosum (OJ).

A big hello to these great big special friend in Mistissini, veronica Longchap, Crystal O.(?)

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Crystal Brien, Charlie Gunner Ginette Gunner, Merina Longchap, Anne-Marie Matoush, Kyla Matoush, Angela Linton, Beverly Bosum. Last but not least Elizabeth wapachee. Hey there girlfriends having fun out there? I'm starting to miss you guys a lot! By the way, sorry for not saying goodbye to you all. Well, have fun without me. Friend always, Lena Bosum OJ)

BIG Happy B-day wishes going out to these NATION-ites: CB (Oct. 30), RS (Nov. 6), EW (Nov. 8) & belatedly KC, LL & ND. Lotsaluv, you guys. xoxox

Happy trick or treating to all the tasty Cree children of all ages and for all time. Har har har! From Satan and his posse.

CORRECTION

The ad for Chibougamau Automobiles in this issue of The Nation contains incorrect information.
•Stock # 98100, GMC Safari Van 2WD, and
•#98254, Venture Van
should not appear on the ad. The Nation aplogizes for any convenience this may have caused.

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WHO? For Natives and Non-natives of Abitibi-Temiscamingue and James Bay regions

WHAT? Workshops, conferences, panel and exchanges on topics such as economic development, training and education, natural resources and health and social issues.

WHEN? On Thursday, November 26, 1998. Starting at 8:30 am.

WHERE? The Confortel Hotel: Congress Center of Val-d'Or

WHY? To create lasting relationships and partnerships for the benefit of the communities.

COST? $75.00 per person (includes dinner and the banquet)

The Forum will be followed by a cocktail, a banquet and cultural entertainment.

The program includes merit awards to entities from Native and Non-Native communities with outstanding success partnership stories.

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